

SUBSCRIBE TODAY
 Duluth News Tribune
 Subscriber Services

DuluthNewsTribune.com

We Need Your Help!
Take a short online survey.


Search ☒ Recent News ☐ Archives ☐ Web for

Go

- ☒ Jobs
- ☒ Cars
- ☒ Real Estate
- ☒ Apartments
- ☒ Local Shopping
- ☒ All Classifieds
 - Create an Ad
 - Find an Ad
- ☒ Dating

[Back to Home](#) > [News](#) >

Local XML

 email this  print this  reprint or license this

Posted on Fri, Mar. 24, 2006

Sarona is lowest bidder for WLSSD trash

TRASH: Duluth-area garbage will continue going to landfill in Sarona for now.

BY JOHN MYERS
 NEWS TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Duluth trash probably will keep going to a landfill in Northwestern Wisconsin for another five years under a deal being developed by the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District.

Allied Waste, a subsidiary of Browning Ferris Industries, had the lowest of three bids received by the WLSSD.

The company would bring the trash to its landfill near Sarona, about 80 miles south of Superior.

Allied's proposal of \$34.36 per ton bested proposals of \$40.82 by Waste Management Inc. for a landfill in Ladysmith, Wis., and the city of Superior's \$39.17 per ton for its Moccasin Mike Landfill.

The proposal also is \$2.58 per ton lower than the current cost.

The WLSSD's board this week reviewed bids and authorized staff members to negotiate a five-year deal with Allied, which has been the destination for the Duluth area's trash for the past seven years. The current contract expires in June.

The WLSSD handles about 120,000 tons of trash each year from Duluth and surrounding communities, serving as a collection site for local haulers. The trash is then loaded into a semitrailer for the trip south.

WLSSD officials say the district is looking for the most cost-effective, environmentally accepted way to dispose of local trash. Right now, that's still the Sarona landfill.

- News**
- Breaking News
 - Columnists
 - Local
 - Matters of Record
 - Nation
 - Obituaries
 - Photos
 - Politics
 - State
 - Weird News
 - World

Sports

Entertainment

Business

Living

Opinion / Letters

ONLINE EXTRAS

Newspaper Ads Online

Past articles

Aquarium Cam

Discussion Boards

Maps & Directions

RSS Headlines

Yellow Pages

SITE SERVICES

Contact Us

Advertise

"There were so many variables to look at and consider, hauling and such. It wasn't only cost," said Karen Anderson, WLSSD community relations director. "But they also came in as the low-cost provider."

Several Sarona-area residents don't like Duluth and other Minnesota trash running down their roads to the landfill and are supporting a bill in the Wisconsin Legislature to dramatically raise the state's dumping fee to discourage out-of-state trash. So far, that proposal has not advanced.

Jeff Vito, Superior's public works and economic development director, said it wasn't clear whether Superior might be able to rebid the contract in an effort to win the WLSSD's trash. Superior recently completed an expansion of its landfill and has the capacity to handle years' worth of WLSSD trash, Vito said.

About 50,000 tons of WLSSD trash went into the Superior landfill annually before 1999 -- rejects that couldn't be burned in the WLSSD's incineration system that has since been idled.

"We hope to find out if we might rework the bid, if the WLSSD would allow it," Vito said.

Despite the expected five-year landfill contract, WLSSD officials continue to look forward to other uses for local trash, such as turning waste into energy rather than entombing it underground.

The WLSSD board this week established a solid waste task force that will study options to find a higher use for trash without creating pollution. The task force includes WLSSD, city, county, business, utility, education, scientific and environmental representatives who will look at options such as turning trash into steam or electricity.

New technologies promise to transform trash into power without the air pollution created by traditional garbage incineration, although the systems have not been widely used in the U.S.

"There are so many emerging technologies out there that we should take a look at and we will," Anderson said. "It's not something we can rush into. It's going to be a five- or 10-year process."

WLSSD officials also continue efforts to reduce total trash output by encouraging composting, recycling and trash reduction. The agency is moving toward requiring food waste to be recycled rather than thrown out.

The WLSSD also has been inspecting trash more closely, turning loads away that contain high amounts of recyclable items, Anderson said.

[email this](#)[print this](#)[reprint or license this](#)

SUBSCRIBE TODAY



Sign up for Home
Delivery of the Duluth
News Tribune today!